

## Notes and Observations

SOME EARLY AND LATE RECORDS OF THE FIRST LEPIDOPTERA IN 1971.—I have thought it of interest to record some unusually early and also late appearances during the first four and a half months of 1971, caused, no doubt, by the vagaries of the British climate, though the remarkably fine spells at the end of April and in the first half of May may have been responsible for some of the precocious emergences. Some early dates are:—

March 14	<i>Eupithecia abbreviata</i> Stephens	Virginia Water.
April 5	<i>Cynthia mendica</i> Clerck	Horsell.
April 15	<i>Chaonia ruficornis</i> Hufn.	Kendal.
April 20	<i>Rheumaptera cervinalis</i> Scop.	Horsell.
May 9	<i>Plusia gamma</i> L.	Horsell.
May 10	<i>Harpyia furcula</i> Clerck	Horsell.
May 11	<i>Semiothisa liturata</i> Clerck	Horsell.

while later dates include:—

March 15	<i>Erannis leucophaearia</i> Schiff.	Horsell.
March 24	<i>Phigalia pedaria</i> Fabr.	Chobham.
May 11	<i>Conistra vaccinii</i> L.	Chobham.
May 12	<i>Xylocampa areola</i> Esp.	Horsell.

—C. G. M. de WORMS, Three Oaks, Woking. 16.v.1971.

TETHEA FLUCTUOSA HÜBN: A MELANIC EXAMPLE IN KENT.—I was in the well-known Hamstreet Woods on June 21, 1971 when, among a not very prolific number of visitors to light, I took a remarkable form of the Satin Lutestring with the forewings very dark with no pale band showing, while the hindwings were dark grey and the body was also melanic. Mr Chalmers-Hunt in his Lepidoptera of Kent mentions a similar form taken in the same locality by Mr George Youden in 1955. I am not aware of another of this rare form being taken in the interval. Another unexpected visitor there was *Spilosoma urticae* Esp. (Water Ermine). — C. G. M. de WORMS, Three Oaks, Woking. 20.viii.1971.

A BUTTERFLY DAY IN AUGUST.—On an ideal day for warmth and sunshine I paid a visit on 17th August 1971, to the Chiddingfold and Petworth areas with the Rev. Anthony Harbottle and his two young sons. In our walks through several woods, we saw in all twenty species of butterflies which included the following: *Pieris brassicae* L., *P. rapae* L., *P. napi* L., *Leptidea sinapis* L., *Gonepteryx rhamni* L., *Vanessa io* L., *Polygonia calbum* L., *Apatura iris* L., *Limenitis camilla* L., *Argynnis paphia* L., *Coenonympha pamphilus* L., *Maniola jurtina* L. *M. tithonus* L., *Pararge aegeria* L., *Polyommatus icarus* Rott., *Heodes phlaeas* L., *Celastrina argiolus* L., *Thecla quercus* L., and *Thymelicus sylvestric* Poda; altogether a remarkable total.—C. G. M. de WORMS, Three Oaks, Woking. 20.viii.1971.